

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of:

Qwest Communications International Inc.
Petition for Forbearance Under
47 U.S.C. § 160(c)

WC Docket No. 03-260

SBC'S COMMENTS ON QWEST'S PETITION FOR FORBEARANCE

SBC supports Qwest's Petition for Forbearance. The bases for SBC's support are set forth in detail in its own Petition for Forbearance, filed on November 6, 2003 (WC Docket No. 03-235), and in SBC's Reply Comments in support of its petition, filed on December 12, 2003. Rather than repeat those arguments here, SBC hereby attaches copies of its Petition for Forbearance and its Reply Comments.

As the Commission has repeatedly held, competition, not government regulation, best protects consumers. A determination that an element need not be unbundled under section 251 necessarily reflects a determination that the element is suitable for competitive supply. Moreover, as the D.C. Circuit has held, unbundling in such a circumstance is affirmatively harmful because it imposes substantial costs on society, including disincentives to invest, without any counterbalancing benefits to competition. That is especially true for broadband. Any decision to require broadband unbundling under section 271 would be directly contrary to the Commission's and the statutory goal of section 706 of the Act to facilitate the widespread

deployment of broadband technologies. Accordingly, the Commission should grant Qwest's Petition for Forbearance as well as SBC's Petition for Forbearance.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 20, 2004